

up about anti-Semitism and other reports of religious intolerance among cadets and staff, including allegations that evangelical Christians wield too much influence.

Capt. Melinda Morton said she was fired last week by her boss, Col. Michael Whittington. Morton said she was pressured to deny a report by Yale Divinity School Professor Kristen Leslie that a chaplain told 600 cadets during basic training last year "to go back to their tents and tell their fellow cadets that those who are not born again will burn in the fires of hell."

"I was told by Chaplain Whittington that if someone was going to be loyal to the chaplaincy and the Air Force, then someone would take a certain view of the Yale report and view Dr. Leslie as disloyal," Morton said.

Both chaplains had been scheduled to leave the school this year, with Whittington, the academy's chief chaplain, retiring and Morton, his executive officer, scheduled for an overseas assignment. She called that an excuse to get rid of her.

The Air Force's chief chaplain, Maj. Gen. Charles Baldwin, said Morton was not fired.

Her duties have changed, however, because Whittington will retire in June rather than in July as originally planned. Morton has been scheduled for reassignment to an Air Force base in Japan for some time, Baldwin said.

The academy said Whittington was unavailable because he was being interviewed for a Pentagon investigation into more than 50 complaints of religious intolerance in the past several years.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, Ruler of heaven and Earth, You created us to glorify You both in prayer and by our daily labor.

Look with favor upon us as we begin a new week in Your presence. Let us be fellow workers with You in building an earthly Nation that will reflect the attributes of Your heavenly Kingdom.

Grant to us, O Lord, joy and peace that we may bring these gifts to all we meet, for we desire to live, move, and have our being in You, now and forever. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### CONGRATULATING BASCOMB UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate Bascomb United Methodist Church as they join together for their 175th Homecoming Celebration on June 5, 2005, a church with a rich heritage which continues to serve the Cherokee County community and beyond.

The church began in a mill in 1830 when W.K. McCanless organized a group of Christians which came to be known as Bascomb Church, named for antebellum orator and bishop Henry Bascomb. The church predates the founding of Cherokee County; and as the congregation grew, they moved to a log cabin which also served as a school.

In 1883, after negotiation for land, the framed and painted church was completed with cornerstones bearing the names of the trustees. Modern renovations include additions for classrooms and fellowship and stained glass windows. The chancel cross in the chapel is made from timbers from the 1883 frame building.

With pride I recognize Bascomb United Methodist Church for its 175 years of offering a place of loving care and joyous worship to the people of Woodstock, Georgia, and beyond. I ask all Members to join me in honoring and congratulating the congregation for their remarkable achievements.

#### NEWSWEEK ERROR

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, all Americans are distressed by the anti-American images that surfaced this weekend in Afghanistan. United States flags are being burned, the American military is being harshly criticized, our good name is being stained. What is more, people are dying.

All of this because of the carelessness of one group of magazine editors at Newsweek magazine. This magazine recently reported that U.S. investigators

had determined American guards at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base had desecrated the Quran by flushing the holy book down the toilet.

Now we have learned that Newsweek has acknowledged errors in its story. The source used by Newsweek's reporters was anonymous, and it is obvious that the magazine failed to fully investigate this "source" and his or her claims.

Newsweek decided to publish these accusations in haste, without regard for the great pain and suffering that they could, and ultimately would, cause.

Some in the media are simply fanatical about being first, and we as a country and as a culture must draw the line and demand more from our media.

Today, I call on Newsweek to fully retract its story and to apologize to the people of Afghanistan whose lives have been forever impacted by this carelessness and to the American people for damaging our good name.

#### TEXAS MLR

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, some good news today from down in my home State of Texas. Recognizing that a unique turnaround is under way in the State of Texas in the arena of medical liability reform, the American Medical Association today announced that it was removing Texas from its list of States in crisis from the medical liability crisis.

The medical liability crisis in Texas was halted thanks to sweeping reforms that took place almost 2 years ago, in September, 2003, when voters in the State of Texas passed a constitutional amendment which placed an upper limit on noneconomic damages on pain and suffering.

Since those reforms were passed, signs of improvement are widespread in Texas. Access to care is increasing and claims are down; physician recruitment, physician retention is up, especially in high-risk specialties. New insurers are entering the Texas medical liability market, creating more choices for doctors. Subsequently, competition is increasing; and all five of the largest insurers in the Texas medical liability market have announced rate cuts. Rates are down. Doctors are coming back to the State of Texas. This is good news for the patients of Texas as access and affordability have increased.

This House should take up the bill that we passed 2 years ago and react similarly.

#### FILIBUSTER ARGUMENT A FRAUD

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)